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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

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International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/169 M of 16 December 1997, 53/1 H of 16 November 1998, 55/44 of 27 November 2000, 57/101 of 25 November 2002 and 60/216 of 22 December 2005,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] and the information contained therein on measures undertaken to address health, environmental, economic and humanitarian development problems and satisfaction of needs of the Semipalatinsk region,

Recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to the long-term nature of its

[1] A/63/659.

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consequences for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

Taking into consideration the results of the international conference on the problems of the Semipalatinsk region, held in Tokyo in 1999, which have promoted the effectiveness of the assistance provided to the population of the region,

Recognizing the important role of national development policies and strategies in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, and taking note with satisfaction of the successful accomplishment of the Kazakhstan national programme entitled "Complex solution of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site problems for 2005-2007" and the elaboration of the new cycle of the programme for 2009-2011,

Recognizing also the challenges Kazakhstan faces in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular in the context of the efforts by the Government of Kazakhstan to ensure an effective and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular on health care and environmental sustainability,

Recognizing further that the Government of Kazakhstan may call upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan to render assistance in conducting consultations regarding establishing a multi-stakeholders' mechanism, with the participation of various government bodies, local governments, civil society, the donor community and international organizations, to improve governance and enable the more efficient use of resources allocated to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular regarding the areas of radiation safety, socio-economic development, health, environmental protection, and the provision of information and risk communication to the population,

Expressing profound concern regarding the negative effects of nuclear testing on the sustainability of the ecosystem in the region and the accumulation of radioactive substances in the soil, resulting in a wide scope and a complexity of nuclear testing consequences that create humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health problems,

Taking note of the need for utilization of modern technologies in minimizing and mitigating radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental challenges in the Semipalatinsk region,

Taking into account the fact that a number of international programmes in the Semipalatinsk region have been completed since the closure of the nuclear testing grounds, whereas serious social, economic and ecological problems continue to exist,

Expressing deep concern that the current efforts are not sufficient to alleviate consequences of nuclear testing, and regarding the fact that only 5 of the 38 projects identified by the international conference in Tokyo held in 1999 were implemented,

Emphasizing the importance of support by donor States and international development organizations for the efforts by Kazakhstan to improve the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region, and, in this regard, stressing the need for the international community to continue to pay due attention to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Emphasizing also the importance of the new development-oriented approach in tackling problems in the Semipalatinsk region in the medium and long term,

Stressing the importance of the commemoration, in 2011, of the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site,

Expressing appreciation to donor countries especially to the Government of Japan, United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Bank, and the Global Environment Facility for their contribution to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

1. *Welcomes and recognizes* the important role of the Government of Kazakhstan in providing domestic resources to help meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including for the implementation of the Kazakhstan national multi-year programme entitled "Complex solution of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site problems for 2005-2007";

2. *Calls upon* the international community, including all Member States, in particular donor States, and United Nations institutions to continue to support Kazakhstan in addressing the challenges of the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region and its population, taking additional actions, including by facilitating the implementation of the Kazakhstan national programme on addressing the problems of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground in a comprehensive manner, and stresses the importance of the regional cooperation in this regard;

3. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance to Kazakhstan in the formulation and implementation of special programmes and projects of treatment and care for the affected population as well as in the efforts to ensure economic growth and sustainable development in the Semipalatinsk region;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including academia and non-governmental organizations, to share their knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;

5. *Welcomes* initiatives commemorating the closure of the former Semipalatinsk test site and the twentieth anniversary of the international anti-nuclear movement "Nevada-Semei", and the international conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on remediation of land contaminated by radioactive material residues, to be held in 2009 in Kazakhstan, and invites the international community to participate in these events;

6. *Invites* Member States to observe, in 2011, the twentieth anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site through conducting relevant events and functions to deliver to the international community information on the deteriorating consequences of nuclear testing on human health and environment;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in implementing relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and to encourage the donor community and international and regional organizations to fulfil their commitments declared at the Tokyo international conference;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to pursue a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing and coordinating the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in the report of the Secretary-General;

9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, under the agenda item entitled "Sustainable development", on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.